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## JAPAN.

*Report from Yokohama—Plague in Formosa.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, March 6, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that there has been no important change in the sanitary condition of my district since my letter of February 22. No case of plague has been met with in Japan proper since the last at Osaka on January 13, while as regards Formosa, the governor-general of that island returns the whole number of pest patients from January 1 to February 28 as 97, of whom 78 died.

The municipal authorities of Kobe have, rather late in the day, decided to burn down the portion of the suburb of Fukiai Mura, in which occurred nearly all the cases of plague during the recent epidemic. Their decision appears to have been made under the stimulus of an offer for the land from a large corporation which assumes all claims arising from the destruction of property.

No smallpox, typhus, or other quarantinable disease is reported from any part of the empire. Dysentery, however, continues present, though the number of cases is but small.

The spring is rapidly approaching and we shall soon know whether the infection of plague has persisted in the lately affected district throughout the cold weather.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,  
Sanitary Inspector, Yokohama.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

## MEXICO.

*Yellow fever in Cordoba in 1899.*

COLON, COLOMBIA, March 20, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have just received a letter from the alcalde, of Cordoba, Mexico, with the following information and statistics of the epidemic of yellow fever that occurred in that city during the past summer. Beginning on May 10, 1899, the following number of cases was reported: May, 8 cases; June, 37 cases; July, 90 cases; August, 220 cases; September, 197 cases; October, 132 cases; November, 39 cases; December, 7 cases, making a total of 730 cases. Three hundred and fifty-three died, making a death rate of 48½ per cent. Eleven per cent of the inhabitants were attacked. Thirty-five per cent of the patients were women and 6 were children. Ninety-six of the cases were brought from the surrounding country and 60 deaths occurred outside of the city.

Respectfully,

SAML. H. HODGSON,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Yearly mortality in the City of Mexico.*

The Mexican Herald, Thursday, March 15, 1900, says:

The statistical bureau of the superior board of health has just rendered its annual report, covering 1899 and four previous years. The

deaths were as follows: 1899, 17,783; 1898, 18,067; 1897, 16,687; 1896, 15,466; 1895, 14,510.

Taking last year's deaths, and estimating the population on the basis of the municipal census of 1895, the death rate was, says the board, 51.63 per thousand, an alarming rate, and more than double that of London, New York, or Paris. A new census would undoubtedly show an increased population and so the death rate per thousand would be diminished, but, in any case, it would be far in excess of the capitals mentioned.

The number of births, as usual, is below the number of deaths, and the city's population grows only from constant recruiting from the interior towns. The births in 1899 were 14,310, over 3,000 fewer than the deaths. There were 844 stillbirths and 606 cases of abortion.

The deaths occurring at the hospitals were: Juarez, 1,460; San Andres, 954; Military, 180; Maternidad, 94; Jesus, 92; Homoeopathic, 86; Beistegui, 76; San Hipolito (for the insane), 50; Divino Salvador, 44; Morelos, 24.

Taking the city by *cuarteles*, or wards, the death rate per 1,000 was: First ward, 47.06; second ward, 72.56; third ward, 54.41; fourth ward, 40.75; fifth ward, 53.82; sixth ward, 37.27; seventh ward, 33.83; eighth ward, 43.51.

The tremendous death rate in the second ward will be noted.

The suburban towns in past years have shown an undue death rate, due, in large measure, to the custom of sending desperate cases into the suburbs in hope of a possible amelioration of their condition; these deaths should properly be charged up to the city. Many of the suburbs require, as much as does the city itself, a complete sanitation and the construction of sewers. There are suburbs where paludal or intermittent fevers prevail and the nonenforcement of the vaccination law causes many deaths.

#### NETHERLANDS.

##### *Report from Rotterdam.*

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, *March 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended March 17, 1900: Three vessels were inspected and received bills of health. Of these the Holland-America Line steamship *Spaarndam* carried both passengers and freight. She sailed from this port for New York, via Boulogne-sur-Mer, on the 15th instant, carrying 16 cabin and 290 steerage passengers. One hundred and thirty pieces of baggage were inspected and passed and 60 pieces were disinfected and passed. The health of this port remains good.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

#### PORTO RICO.

##### *Report from Ponce.*

PONCE, PORTO RICO, *March 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the weekly quarantine and abstract bills of health report for the week ended March 17, 1900. Two cases of smallpox have been reported by the board of health.